REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 have been pending.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. Patent 5,012,076).

Claims 2-7 are allowed.

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, only allowed claims remain, placing the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 26, 7004

Mehdi Sheikerz

Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: (202) 434-1500

Facsimile: (202) 434-1501